What is claimed:

1. A ceramic article having a composition comprising u (Al_2O_3-TiO_2) + v (R) + w ($3Al_2O_3$-$2SiO_2$) + x (Al_2O_3) + y (SiO_2) + z ($1.1SrO$-$1.5Al_2O_3$-$13.6SiO_2$-TiO_2) + a (Fe_2O_3-TiO_2) + b (MgO-$2TiO_2$), where, R is SrO-Al_2O_3-$2SiO_2$ or $11.2SrO$-$10.9Al_2O_3$-$24.1SiO_2$-TiO_2, where u, v, w, x, y, z, a and b are weight fractions of each component such that (u+v+w+x+y+z+a+b=1), and $0.5 < u \leq 0.95$, $0.01 < v \leq 0.5$, $0.01 < w \leq 0.5$, $0 < x \leq 0.5$, $0 < y \leq 0.1$, $0 < z \leq 0.5$, $0 < a \leq 0.3$, and $0 < b \leq 0.3$.

2. The ceramic article of claim 1 wherein R is SrO-Al_2O_3-$2SiO_2$.

3. The ceramic article of claim 1 wherein R is $11.2SrO$-$10.9Al_2O_3$-$24.1SiO_2$-TiO_2.

4. The ceramic article of claim 1 having a CTE, as measured from room temperature to 800°C -1000°C of less than 45 x 10^{-7}/°C.

5. The ceramic article of claim 4 having a CTE, as measured from room temperature to 800°C -1000°C of less than 25 x 10^{-7}/°C.

6. The ceramic article of claim 5 having a CTE, as measured from room temperature to 800°C -1000°C of less than 5 x 10^{-7}/°C.

7. The ceramic article of claim 1 having a porosity of up to 60% by volume.

8. The ceramic article of claim 7 having a porosity of up to 45% by volume.

9. The ceramic article of claim 8 having a porosity of up to 55% by volume.

10. The ceramic article of claim 1 having a median pore size of up to 25 micrometers.

11. The ceramic article of claim 10 having a median pore size of up to 20 micrometers.

12. The ceramic article of claim 11 having a median pore size of up to 15 micrometers.

13. The ceramic article of claim 1 having a four-point modulus of rupture as measured on a solid rod of circular cross section of greater than 400 pounds per inch (psi).

14. The ceramic article of claim 13 having a four-point modulus of rupture as measured on a solid rod of circular cross section of greater than 700 psi.

15. A diesel particulate filter comprising the ceramic article of claim 1 and a plugged, wall-flow honeycomb filter body comprising a plurality of parallel end-plugged cell channels traversing the body from a frontal inlet end to an outlet end thereof.

16. The diesel particulate filer of claim 15 wherein the ceramic article has a composition comprising u (Al_2O_3-TiO_2) + v (R) + w ($3Al_2O_3$-$2SiO_2$) + x (Al_2O_3) + y (SiO_2) + z ($1.1SrO$-$1.5Al_2O_3$-$13.6SiO_2$-TiO_2) + a (Fe_2O_3-TiO_2) + b (MgO-$2TiO_2$), where, R is SrO-Al_2O_3-$2SiO_2$ or $11.2SrO$-$10.9Al_2O_3$-$24.1SiO_2$-TiO_2, where u, v, w, x, y, z, a and b are weight fractions of each component such that (u+v+w+x+y+z+a+b=1), and u = 0.6965, v = 0.225, w = 0.075, x = 0, y = 0, z = 0, a = 0.0035, and b = 0.

17. The diesel particulate filter of claim 16 having a CTE, as measured from room temperature to 800°C -1000°C of less than 15 x 10^{-7}/°C.

18. The diesel particulate filter of claim 17 having a CTE, as measured from room temperature to 800°C -1000°C of less than 5 x 10^{-7}/°C.

19. The diesel particulate filter of claim 16 having a porosity of 30% to 50% by volume.

20. The diesel particulate filter of claim 19 having a porosity of 35% to 45% by volume.

21. The diesel particulate filter of claim 16 having a median pore size of 5 to 25 micrometers.

22. The diesel particulate filter of claim 21 having a median pore size of 10 to 15 micrometers.

23. The diesel particulate filter of claim 16 having a modulus of rupture as measured by on a cellular bar having a cell density of 200 cpsi and 0.016 inch thick walls, of 150 to 400 psi.

24. The diesel particulate filter of claim 23 having a modulus of rupture as measured by on a cellular bar having a cell density of 200 cpsi and 0.016 inch thick walls of 150 to 300 psi.

25. The diesel particulate filter of claim 16 having a permeability of at least 0.20 x 10^{-12} m^2.

26. The diesel particulate filter of claim 25 having a permeability of at least 0.33 x 10^{-12} m^2.

27. The diesel particulate filter of claim 16 having a pressure drop of 5 kPa or less at an artificial carbon soot loading of up to 5 g/L and a flow rate of 210 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm) for a cell density of 273 cells per square inch and a cell wall thickness of about 0.015 inches.

28. A method of making an aluminum titanate-based ceramic body comprising:
    (a) formulating a batch of inorganic raw materials comprising sources of silica, alumina, strontium, titania, and/or iron oxide together with organic processing comprising plasticizers, lubricants, binders, and water as solvent, and mixing to form a homogeneous and plasticized mixture;
    (b) shaping the plasticized mixture into a green body;
    (c) heating the green body at 20-40°C/hr over various temperature intervals with hold temperature and times between 1100°-1650°C for a period of 30-50 hours to develop a ceramic having a composition comprising u (Al_2O_3-TiO_2) + v (R) + w ($3Al_2O_3$-$2SiO_2$) + x (Al_2O_3) + y (SiO_2) + z ($1.1SrO$-$1.5Al_2O_3$-$13.6SiO_2$-TiO_2) + a (Fe_2O_3-TiO_2) + b (MgO-$2TiO_2$), where, R is SrO-Al_2O_3-$2SiO_2$ or $11.2SrO$-$10.9Al_2O_3$-$24.1SiO_2$-TiO_2, where u, v, w, x, y, z, a and b are weight fractions of each component such that (u+v+w+x+y+z+a+b=1), and $0.5 < u \leq 0.95$, $0.01 < v \leq 0.5$, $0.01 < w \leq 0.5$, $0 < x \leq 0.5$, $0 < y \leq 0.1$, $0 < z \leq 0.5$, $0 < a \leq 0.3$, and $0 < b \leq 0.3$.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the heating is between 1100°-1500°C.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein the shaping is done by extrusion.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the plasticized mixture is extruded into a honeycomb green body.

32. The method of claim 28 wherein the ceramic has a composition comprising u (Al_2O_3-TiO_2) + v (R) + w ($3Al_2O_3$-$2SiO_2$) + x (Al_2O_3) + y (SiO_2) + z ($1.1SrO$-$1.5Al_2O_3$-$13.6SiO_2$-TiO_2) + a (Fe_2O_3-TiO_2) + b (MgO-$2TiO_2$), where, R is SrO-Al_2O_3-$2SiO_2$ or $11.2SrO$-$10.9Al_2O_3$-$24.1SiO_2$-TiO_2, where u, v, w, x, y, z, a and b are weight fractions of each component such that (u+v+w+x+y+z+a+b=1), and u = 0.6965, v = 0.225, w = 0.075, x = 0, y = 0, z = 0, a = 0.0035, and b = 0.